(e) whether experts want medical SEZs, call-centres for improving medical tourism in the country; and

(f) if so, the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tourism does not collect separate information on medical tourist traffic to India.

(d) The Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with the Ministry of Health has already initiated several measures to promote Medical Tourism which include promotion in overseas market and production of publicity materials like brochure, CDs and films etc. and their distribution in target markets. The specific promotion at various international travel fairs such as World Travel Mart, London and ITB, Berlin etc. is also undertaken. A guide on select India hospitals of the country for health tourism purposes has been placed on Ministry of Tourism's website www.incredibleindia.org for wider publicity.

(e) No such proposal is under consideration of the Ministry of Tourism.

(f) Does not arise.

Promotion of village tourism

1607. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have formulated any scheme for promoting Village Tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof showing the status of implementation thereof;

(c) the details of the Village Tourism Projects being implemented in various districts of Andhra Pradesh, indicating the amount sanctioned and released for these projects during the last two years and till date and the progress made thereon, so far; and

(d) the time likely to be taken to complete these projects?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The tourism related infrastructure for identified rural sites is sanctioned

under the scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development for Destination and Circuit of Ministry of Tourism. These funds are sanctioned and released based on the proposals received from the State/UT Government concerned. The capacity building including upgradation of skills are being supported for rural community through GOI-UNDP Endogenous Tourism Project and the Scheme of Capacity Building for Service Providers of the Ministry.

(c) The details of Central Financial Assistance extended to State Government of Andhra Pradesh under the above mentioned schemes for infrastructure creation as well as Capacity Building during the last two years and till date are as follows:

Infrastructure Development

i.	Puttaparthi, Distt. Ananthpur	Rs. 49.50 lakh in 2004-05
ii.	Chinchinada, Distt. East Godavari	Rs. 50.00 lakh in 2004-05
iii.	Srikalahasthi, Distt. Chittoor	Rs. 50.00 lakh in 2004-05

Capacity Building

i.	Pochampalli, Distt. Nalgonda	Rs. 20.00 lakh in 2004-05
ii.	Srikalahasthi, Distt. Chittoor	Rs. 20.00 lakh in 2004-05

(d) The implementation of the projects sanctioned is the responsibility of the State Government concerned. However, the monitoring of the implementation of sanctioned projects is done regularly.

Promotion of eco-tourism in Simplipal Hills in Orissa

1608. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to promote eco-tourism in the Simplipal hills in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the details of help that is proposed to be rendered by the Centre to the State Government to promote eco-tourism in the State?